

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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3 July 1958

Document No. DFC-19787

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Federal Bureau of Investigation

Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

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DATE 2003 2006

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am enclosing communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director
1A1t H:J

Enc.

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1958

DFC-19787

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON FIELD

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 1/152	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/1/51-6/3/52	REPORT MADE BY EDWARD E. ABBOTT	JJB
TITLE YUGOSLAV ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - YU		

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No Yugoslav intelligence activities reported. ALES BEBLER, Chief Yugoslav delegate to the U.N. visited Los Angeles 4-3-52 and made a number of pro-Tito speeches. RAFO IVANCEVIC, Yugoslav Consul General at San Francisco visited Los Angeles 4-1-52. He expressed his disappointment that a new organization which he was trying to establish, "Friends of New Yugoslavia", was not formed in Los Angeles. Two visiting Yugoslav painters, ZDO MURTIC and VILKO SEPEROV exhibited their paintings in Los Angeles at the Biltmore Hotel during 4/52, but sold only one picture. These artists then exhibited their paintings in San Pedro and it is reported they have sold quite a few pictures there. INS hearings concerning ANDRIJAH ARTUKOVIC have been completed in Los Angeles, and it is expected that a deportation order will be issued against him.



- P# -

DETAILS:

All informants designated by T-symbols in this report are of known reliability.

I. PRO-TITO YUGOSLAV ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES OF FBI

A. Intelligence Activities:

No intelligence activities reported.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>(Signature)</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>(Signature)</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<i>3 JJA #1 TO DFB-19787</i>			
NAME OF THIS REPORT			
10 - Bureau (100-32820) (Reg.) 1 -- Chicago (Info) (100-11131) (Reg.) 2 -- New York (Info) (100-14776) (Reg.) 2 -- Washington Field (100-11980) (Reg.) 1 -- Los Angeles (100-19341)			

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B. Political and Propaganda Activities

Visit of Yugoslav Officials to the Los Angeles area:

T-1 advised that ALES BEBLER, Chief Yugoslav Delegate to the United Nations, and his wife came to Los Angeles on April 3, 1952, and stayed at the Biltmore Hotel. The Informant stated that on April 4, 1952, ALES BEBLER gave a talk at Fontana, California, at which time he stressed that Triestowould be given to Yugoslavia and that the Italian claims concerning it have no legal or moral basis.

On April 5, 1952, BEBLER went to San Pedro California. The Yugoslav colony in San Pedro had a dinner for him at the Fireside Inn, in San Pedro. BEBLER, at this time, also mentioned that Yugoslavia rightfully should own a control over Trieste. BEBLER also stated that the Yugoslavs in America should be good Americans and be faithful to America. He also stressed the fact that America and Yugoslavia are on very friendly terms, and that Yugoslavs entertain great respect and friendship for America.

On April 6, 1952, the Yugoalav colony in Los Angeles had a dinner at Scully's Restaurant on Crenshaw Boulevard for ALES BEBLER. About one hundred people attended. The informant stated that BEBLER made a very good impression on the Yugoslav colony. T-1 said that BEBLER appeared to be tactful and clever.

While BEBLER was in Los Angeles, he and his wife made a tour of the Los Angeles motion picture studios.

ALES BEBLER and his wife went to San Francisco on April 7, 1952.

T-2 advised that ALES BEBLER and his wife, VERA, registered at the Biltmore Hotel on April 3, 1952, and were given room 8326. They checked out at 8:42 a.m. on April 7, 1952, when BEBLER registered he listed his position as "Ambassador to the U.N.". Arrangements for BEBLER's accommodations were apparently made by EDWARD DERMOT DOYLE, Pacific Coast Director, American Association of the U.N. - Ambassador Hotel, inasmuch as a card containing the above information was clipped to the reservation listed for BEBLER.

T-1 stated that RAFO IVANCEVIC, Yugoslav Consul General at San Francisco, California, came to Los Angeles on April 1, 1952, and stayed at the home of NICHOLAS MUICK, Huntington Park, California. T-1 stated that NICHOLAS MUICK usually puts up IVANCEVIC whenever he comes to Los Angeles, and that MUICK is the unofficial agent for IVANCEVIC in Los

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Angeles. T-1 advised that RAFO IVANCEVIC came to Los Angeles mainly to attend a hearing concerning ANDRIJA ARTUKOVIC. This hearing was originally scheduled for April 3, 1952. Further information concerning ARTUKOVIC will be found in a subsequent section of this report.

T-1 stated that while IVANCEVIC was in Los Angeles he expressed his disappointment that a new organization which he was sponsoring, "Friends of New Yugoslavia" was not formed in Los Angeles. IVANCEVIC said that the chief stumbling block to the establishment of such an organization appeared to be the attitude of MATKO KOVACEVIC and Father MIRKO VUISIC. IVANCEVIC pointed out that the so called "Cominform Yugoslav Group" in Los Angeles had been able to organize a new Yugoslav club, whereas the Yugoslav individuals friendly to the present Yugoslav government had not been able to form one. IVANCEVIC returned to San Francisco with ALES BEBLER on April 7, 1952.

Re: MARCO RADICH

T-1 stated that RAFO IVANCEVIC had refused to issue a visa to MARCO RADICH and his wife to visit Yugoslavia. IVANCEVIC took this action because RADICH and his wife had put up a \$10,000 bond in behalf of ANDRIJA ARTUKOVIC, a political exile in the United States who was formerly Minister of Justice in the puppet state of Croatia under the Hitler-Quisling, Pavelic. The Consul General made it plain that anyone who would furnish bail in ARTUKOVIC's behalf would be regarded by him as unfriendly to Yugoslavia. T-1 said that it appeared to him that HUICK had recommended to IVANCEVIC that RADICH not be granted a visa to visit Yugoslavia. However, according to T-1 MATKO KOVACEVIC interested himself in RADICH's behalf and made a trip to San Francisco to visit the Yugoslav Consul General in order to assist RADICH. RADICH then requested that the Federal Court in Los Angeles cancel the \$10,000 bond he had put up for ARTUKOVIC, and it was cancelled. After this, IVANCEVIC granted a visa so that MARCO RADICH and his wife could visit Yugoslavia during the Summer of 1952.

As a result of the intervention by MATKO KOVACEVIC for MARCO RADICH, the Consul General, IVANCEVIC, became rather cool toward KOVACEVIC, and it is reported that IVANCEVIC told KOVACEVIC that hereafter he would have to rely on the recommendations of NICHOLAS HUICK concerning the granting of visas, and that he did not feel he could rely on the recommendations of MATKO KOVACEVIC who had shown by his recent action that he was not whole-heartedly for the welfare of the new Yugoslav Regime. According to T-1 it had been the practice in the past for the Consul General at San Francisco to consider both the recommendations of HUICK and KOVACEVIC concerning the granting of Yugoslav visas to persons in the Los Angeles area.

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Re: EDO MURTIĆ and VILKO SEFEROV.

T-1 and T-3 advised that two artists from Yugoslavia, EDO MURTIĆ and VILKO SEFEROV came to Los Angeles in the latter part of March, 1952. These artists exhibited their paintings during the month of April, 1952, at the Cowie Art Galleries, Biltmore Hotel. These painters told T-1 that half of their profits from the sale of their paintings was to go for the benefit of Yugoslav artists for the purchase of paints and brushes and the other half of the profits was for the artists themselves. NICHOLAS MUICK had a party for these two artists on March 28, 1952, and about twenty-five persons attended.

T-4 stated that the exhibition of the Yugoslav paintings by the two artists during April, 1952, at the Biltmore Hotel was a failure. During April only one picture was sold and this was sold for the price of \$200.00.

During May, 1952, these two Yugoslav artists exhibited their paintings in San Pedro and the sale of their pictures there was much better than it was in Los Angeles. T-4 said that he had learned from MURTIĆ and SEFEROV that during the current year the Yugoslav Government was not purchasing any paintings from artists because of economy measures. Previously the Yugoslav Government had encouraged art by purchasing quite a number of paintings by Yugoslav artists. According to MURTIĆ and SEFEROV the Yugoslav Government is the only purchaser of paintings in Yugoslavia. Accordingly, due to the fact they are not now being purchased many artists are in dire financial need. T-5 stated that MURTIĆ and SEFEROV had been offered a six months contract in Los Angeles, to decorate a Serbian Church. It is said that they are to receive \$25,000 for this work. It is not known if a contract has actually been signed by the artists, but it is believed they are trying to obtain permission from the Yugoslav Government to remain in Los Angeles to perform the six months contract. In this connection, T-1 and T-4 advised that MURTIĆ has stated on a number of occasions in Los Angeles that he does not desire to return to Yugoslavia and that he much prefers to remain in the United States if this is possible.

Re: MATH KOVACEVIC

T-1 advised that during the first part of May, 1952, fifty members of the Yugoslav colony in Los Angeles gathered at the home of NICHOLAS MUICK and had a surprise party in honor of KOVACEVIC. This was for KOVACEVIC's birthday, and also to honor him for his work in Yugoslav relief in 1951 and 1952. At this party the Yugoslav colony presented KOVACEVIC with a fitted leather traveling case in view of his

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contemplated trip to Yugoslavia on May 14, 1952. The Yugoslav colony in Los Angeles also, at this time, entrusted to KOVACEVIC another fitted leather traveling case which KOVACEVIC was commissioned to personally present to Marshal TITO in Yugoslavia. This gift was to show the friendship between the Yugoslav colony in Los Angeles and Yugoslavia. At this dinner MATH KOVACEVIC said that he would present the traveling case to TITO, and that he expected to visit other Yugoslav dignitaries while he was there. It was expected that KOVACEVIC and his wife would return to Los Angeles from the trip in October, 1952.

II. PRO-COMINFORM YUGOSLAV ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

A. Intelligence Activities

No intelligence activities reported.

B. Political and Propaganda Activities

T-1 stated the new Yugoslav Pro-Cominform Group met in April and on May 3, 1952, at the Croatian-American Hall, 330 South Ford Boulevard, Los Angeles. During the meeting on May 3, 1952, MILAN POLOVINA made a speech, as did an individual from the East by the name of BORTICH. Both speeches followed the usual line condemning "American imperialism" and the Korean War. About forty people attended this meeting. Also present, and taking an active part, were VINKO ANTOWICH and PHILIP DRAZICH. T-6 stated POLOVINA, ANTOWICH, and DRAZICH were all known to be members of the Communist Party in 1947. The new Yugoslav group calls itself the Yugoslav-American Culture Club.

III. MISCELLANEOUS YUGOSLAV ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

A. Intelligence Activities

No intelligence activities reported.

B. Political and Propaganda Activities

The case of ANDRIJA ARTUKOVIC continues to occupy the attention of the Yugoslav groups in Los Angeles.

JAMES H. BUSELL, Immigration and Naturalization Service Hearing Officer, furnished the following information:

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The Immigration and Naturalization Service Hearings concerning ARTUKOVIC are now finished in Los Angeles, and a transcript of the record is being prepared. Under the present procedure, the Immigration and Naturalization Service Local Office rules on the deportation, which can only be set aside by the Immigration and Naturalization Service Appeals Board. Mr. BUSELLE stated that it is his opinion that they will undoubtedly order the deportation of ARTUKOVIC.

With regard to the proceedings concerning ARTUKOVIC in the United States District Court in Los Ang's'es, Mr. BUSELLE said that he has learned that both the attorneys for the prosecution and for the defense are convinced that the Honorable PIERSON HALL, Judge of the District Court, will rule that the treaty between Serbia and the United States made in 1907 is not applicable to Yugoslavia today because of changed conditions. He further pointed out that ARTUKOVIC is a Croatian, and was formerly Minister of Justice under ANTE PAVELIC of the puppet state of Croatia, and that when the treaty regarding extradition between Serbia and the United States was passed Croatia was at that time a part of Austria. Mr. BUSELLE said that regardless of what the court held he believed that the case would eventually get to the United States Supreme Court. Mr. BUSELLE observed that ARTUKOVIC appears to be quite an able warrior himself, and that he appears to direct his own defense. It was further observed by BUSELLE that ARTUKOVIC is a convincing talker, and has been able to secure considerable financial assistance from numerous friends.

- P E N D I N G * -

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